

ART 1544 - Survey of Art History: Body, Gender, and Self

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 42779,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Stephanie Smith

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Professor of Art History

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D., Art History, Rutgers University

M.A., Art History, Rutgers University

B.A., Art History, Washington & Lee University

Instructor Office Location: Bliss Hall 4083

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Course Description

1544. Art History: Body/Gender/Self. This course covers the history of world art from the perspective of the human body, issues of gender, and conceptions of self. This course introduces key concepts, methods, and vocabulary for the study of art, and treats a range of artistic media in their historical and cultural contexts. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Gardner's Art Through the Ages: A Global History, 16th edition	Fred S. Kleiner	

This is an online asynchronous course that uses Cengage's Mindtap. This is an online, interactive version of the following text:

Fred S. Kleiner, *Gardner's Art Through the Ages: A Global History*, 16th edition (Cengage, 2020).

Additional Course Readings:

Sorabella, Jean. "The Nude in Western Art and Its Beginnings in Antiquity." In *Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2000–.

Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters. "The Cult of the Virgin Mary in the Middle Ages." In *Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2000–.

Dr. William Allen, "Icon with Virgin (*Theotokos*) and Child between Saints Theodore and George," in *Smarthistory*, December 12, 2023

Dr. Amy Calvert, "King Menkaure (Mycerinus) and queen," in *Smarthistory*, August 14, 2025

Dr. Kristen Laciste, "The Benin 'Bronzes': a story of violence, theft, and artistry," in *Smarthistory*, April 25, 2023

Dr. Sarahh Scher, "Chavín de Huántar," in *Smarthistory*, August 9, 2015

Dr. Lane Eagles, "Jan van Eyck, *The Arnolfini Portrait*," in *Smarthistory*, January 16, 2025

Dr. Letha Ch'ien, "Diego Velázquez, *Las Meninas*," in *Smarthistory*, March 25, 2026

Dr. Esperança Camara, "Artemisia Gentileschi, *Judith Slaying Holofernes*," in *Smarthistory*, July 19, 2015

Dr. James R. Jewitt, "Titian, *Venus of Urbino*," in *Smarthistory*, August 20, 2020

Dr. Thomas Folland, "Édouard Manet, *Olympia*," in *Smarthistory*, December 9, 2015

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Kleiner, Introduction, What is Art History	Introduction to the Course & How to Look at Visual Art	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
8/31	Kleiner, chapters 1, 5, and 9 The Nude in Western Art and Its Beginnings in Antiquity (Heilbrunn Timeline) The Cult of the Virgin Mary in the Middle Ages (Heilbrunn Timeline) Icon with Virgin (Theotokos) and Child... (Smarthistory)	Module 1: The Goddess Embodied	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
9/7	continuation of week 8/31	Module 1: The Goddess Embodied	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
9/14	Kleiner, chapters 3, 7, 19, and 38 King Menkaure (Mycerinus) and Queen (Smarthistory) The Benin "Bronzes": a story of violence, theft, and artistry (Smarthistory)	Module 1: The Goddess Embodied Module 2: Power, Memory, and Commemoration	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom) Peplos Kore v. Aphrodite of Knidos
9/21	continuation of week 9/14	Module 2: Power, Memory, and Commemoration	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
9/28	continuation of week 9/14 and 9/21	Module 2: Power, Memory, and Commemoration	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom) Egyptian Comparison
10/5	Kleiner, chapters 2, 12, and 18 Chavín de Huántar (Smarthistory)	Module 3: Transformers	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
10/12	continuation of week 10/5	Module 3: Transformers	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom) Invent Your Own Hybrid Creature
10/19	Kleiner, chapters 20, 24, 28 The Arnolfini Portrait (Smarthistory) Diego Velázquez, Las Meninas	Module 4: Secular Society in Western Europe	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
10/26	continuation of week 10/19	Module 4: Secular Society in Western Europe	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
11/2	continuation of week 10/19 and 10/26 Kleiner, chapter 24, 27, and 29 Artemisia Gentileschi, Judith Slaying Holofernes	Module 4: Secular Society in Western Europe Module 5: Violence and the Body	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom) Velazquez and Toulouse Lautrec
11/9	continuation of week 11/2	Module 5: Violence and the Body	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
11/16	continuation of week 11/2 Kleiner, chapters 26, 27, and 35 Titian, Venus of Urbino (Smarthistory) Édouard Manet, Olympia (Smarthistory)	Module 5: Violence and the Body Module 6: Eroticism and the Male Gaze	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom) Judith slaying Holofernes: Gentileschi v. Allori
11/23	continuation of week 11/16	Module 6: Eroticism and the Male Gaze	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
11/30	continuation of week 11/16 and 11/23	Module 6: Eroticism and the Male Gaze	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom) Manet & Olympia



12/7	continuation of week 11/16, 11/23, and 11/30 There is no final exam for this course.	Module 6: Eroticism and the Male Gaze	Various assessments (see Blackboard classroom)
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The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.